electronic media, schools and local campaigns through voluntary organisations.

Highway accidents management policy

3088. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information on Highway-wise accidents including the fatal ones is not collected and maintained by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) on what basis Government propose to evolve Highway accident management policy to reduce such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to collect accident data highway-wise since all the highways traverse through various States across the country. Some of the accidents occur on roads crossing the highways. State-wise accident data is always authentic.

(c) The Government has launched a research study for indentification of accident black spots on National Highways. Simultaneously, other measures have also been taken up. A National Highway patrolling scheme has been introduced under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments for accident relief measures. Besides, voluntary organisations are also actively involved in awareness campaign programmes towards Road Safety. An effort is being made to involve automobile manufacturers towards Road Safety programmes.

Visit of US senator to Jammu and Kashmir

3089. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a US senator visited Kashmir to assess the overall political situation;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government permitted him to visit the State;

(c) whether the US senator after visiting Kashmir met the External Affairs Minister and had a discussion with him on the Kashmir issue; and

(d) details of talks held between US senator and External Affairs Minister?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) US Senator Hank Brown visited Kashmir on August 5-6, 1996. Kashmir is not a restricted area and any person who wishes to visit Kashmir can do so freely, without the need for specific permission of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Command area development programme

3090. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme;

(b) the irrigation projects taken up under the programme and the estimate of irrigation potential expected to be developed out of them; and

(c) the progress achieved during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The Command Area Development Programme was initiated in 1974-75 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective of ensuring efficient utilisation of created irrigation potential for optimum agricultural production from irrigated lands.

The activities covered under the CAD Programme are:

(1) On-farm development works:

(a) Development of field channels and field drains within the command of each outlet.

(b) Land levelling, on an outlet command basis.

(c) Realignment of field boundaries wherever necessary (where possible